

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently amended).** A toy balloon valve adapter mountable over [[for enabling]]an existing balloon valve [[to mate]]for mating sealingly with necks of different size balloons, the toy balloon valve adapter comprising:

(a) a continuous wall defining a balloon neck supporting member having a perimeter relatively different in size from a perimeter of a balloon neck supporting valve head of ~~[[a]]the existing~~ toy balloon valve, said balloon neck supporting member including a first end and a second end, one of said first end and said second end being a relatively larger end and the other being a relatively smaller end;

(b) a cavity defined by said continuous wall and located between said first end and said second end for receiving and containing ~~[[a]]the balloon neck supporting~~ valve head of the existing toy balloon valve;

(c) a first opening into said cavity through said relatively larger end for receiving said balloon neck supporting valve head of said existing toy balloon valve into said cavity;[and]

(d) a second opening through said relatively smaller end for allowing an inflation fluid to flow through said existing toy balloon valve into a supported balloon without leaking; and

(e) more than two flange areas between said first end and said second end, each said flange area having a relatively different size diameter for receiving and effectively sealingly mating and supporting against necks of different size supported toy balloons after inflation.

2. **(Canceled).**

3. **(Original).** The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said relatively larger end has a generally circular shape.

4. **(Canceled).**

5. **(Currently amended).** The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said second opening through said relatively smaller end is sized to fit over and seal against a stem portion of [[a]]said existing toy balloon valve.

6. **(Original).** The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said relatively larger end has an oval shape.

7. **(Original).** The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said continuous wall is made of an elastic material.

8. **(Currently amended).** The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said relatively larger end is sized to fit upside down over [[a]] balloon neck supporting valve head of [[a]]said existing toy balloon valve, and said relatively smaller end is sized to fit into and seal against the inner surface of a neck of a toy balloon being supported.

9. **(Original).** The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said relatively larger end is sized to fit and seal the necks of 14 inch to 20 inch large balloons.

10. **(Original).** The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said continuous wall includes a balloon neck sealing rim at said first end.

11. **(Canceled).**

12. **(Canceled).**

13. **(Currently amended).** The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim ~~[[4]]~~1, wherein each of said ~~[[plural]]~~flange areas is tapered from said relatively larger end towards said relatively smaller end.

14. **(Original).** The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 5, wherein said relatively larger end includes a rim for fitting into and sealing against the inner surface of a neck of a toy balloon being supported.

15. **(Original).** The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 6, wherein said oval relatively larger end has an axis ratio of a least 1:1.25 and less than 1:2.5 for making it considerably easier to stretch and install the neck of a balloon onto the adapter while maintaining an effective seal with the balloon.

16. **(Original).** A tethered toy balloon assembly comprising:

(a) a toy balloon;

(b) a balloon valve for allowing and controlling inflation fluid into said toy balloon, said balloon valve including a valve stem and a balloon neck supporting valve head;

(c) a balloon valve adapter for mounting over said balloon valve and for enabling an existing balloon valve to mate sealingly with different size balloons, the toy balloon valve adapter comprising:

(i) a continuous wall defining a balloon neck supporting member having a perimeter relatively different in size from a perimeter of said

balloon neck supporting valve head of said toy balloon valve, said balloon neck supporting member including a first end and a second end, one of said first end and said second end being a relatively larger end and the other a relatively smaller end;

(ii) a cavity defined by said continuous wall and located between said first end and said second end for receiving and containing said valve head of a toy balloon valve;

(iii) a first opening into said cavity through said relatively larger end for receiving said valve head of said toy balloon valve into said cavity; and

(iv) a second opening through said relatively smaller end for allowing an inflation fluid to flow through said toy balloon valve into a supported balloon without leaking;

(d) a tether support device having a generally cylindrical wall defining an outer surface and an inner bore including an inner surface for frictionally mounting over said valve stem of said toy balloon valve, and plural slots opening from said outer surface into said inner bore for forming various different paths to thread a lead end of a tether; and

(e) a tether threaded through at least one of plural slots of said tether support device for mounting over said valve stem of said toy balloon valve and for impinging said threaded lead end against said inner surface of said inner bore.

17. **(Original).** A toy balloon tether support device comprising:

(a) a generally cylindrical wall defining an outer surface and an inner bore including an inner surface for frictionally mounting over a valve stem of a toy balloon valve,

(b) plural slots opening from said outer surface into said inner bore for forming various different paths to thread a lead end of a tether; and

(c) means within each of said plural slots for receiving and locking a portion of said threaded lead end of said tether, thereby effectively securing said tether to said support device by locking said portion within said means and impinging said threaded end by inserting said inner bore over said valve stem of said toy balloon valve.

18. **(Currently Amended).** The toy balloon tether support device of Claim ~~[[12]]~~17, including a flange portion connected to said cylindrical wall.

19. **(Currently Amended).** The toy balloon tether support device of Claim ~~[[12]]~~17, wherein said plural slots comprise an odd number of such slots.

20. **(Currently Amended).** The toy balloon tether support device of Claim ~~[[12]]~~17, wherein said wall is made of a plastic material.

21. **(Currently Amended).** A toy balloon valve adapter assembly for enabling an existing balloon valve to mate sealingly with different size balloons, the toy balloon valve adapter assembly comprising:

(A) a toy balloon valve having a toy balloon neck supporting valve head for sealing and supporting a balloon neck of a first size; and

(B) an adapter including:

(a) a continuous wall defining a balloon neck supporting member having a perimeter relatively different in size from the perimeter of ~~[[a]]~~said balloon neck supporting valve head of ~~[[a]]~~said toy balloon valve, said balloon neck supporting member including a first end and a second end;

(b) a cavity defined by said continuous wall and located between said first end and said second end for supporting ~~[[a]]~~said valve head of ~~[[the]]~~said toy balloon valve;

(c) a first opening into said cavity through said first end for receiving a stem of said toy balloon valve into said cavity; and

(d) a second opening through said second end for allowing an inflation fluid to flow through said stem of said toy balloon valve into a balloon on said balloon neck supporting member without leaking.

22. **(Currently Amended).** The toy balloon valve adapter assembly of Claim 21, wherein said wall is relatively short and thick for defining a plate-like balloon neck supporting member.

23. **(New).** A displayable toy balloon assembly comprising:

(a) a toy balloon; and

(b) a balloon neck sealing and supporting subassembly for sealing and supporting said displayable toy balloon after inflation, said sealing and supporting subassembly including:

(i) a toy balloon valve having a toy balloon valve head for sealing and supporting a balloon neck of first size; and

(ii) an adapter having an adapter head, relatively larger than said toy balloon valve head, for mounting over said toy balloon valve head of said toy balloon valve for sealing and supporting a balloon neck of a second size without a risk of premature deflation, said second size being larger than said first size.

24. **(New).** The displayable toy balloon assembly of Claim 23, wherein said adapter includes a continuous wall defining (a) a balloon neck supporting portion having a perimeter relatively larger in size than a perimeter of said first

head of said first member, (b) a cavity for receiving and containing said first head of said first member (c) a first opening into said cavity through a first end thereof for receiving said first head of said first member into said cavity, and (d) a second opening through a second and opposite end for allowing an inflation fluid to flow through said first member into said displayable toy balloon without leaking.